

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01620 211951Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001138 212040Z /50

P R 211810Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2847
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T ASUNCION 1620

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CU, UY, PA
SUBJ: POSSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: HAVANA 0981

1. BASED ON ON PAST EXPERIENCE DOUBT GOP WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE SUCH AS THAT OUTLINED REFTEL. PARAGUAY WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN FROM A PRISONER EXCHANGE NOW, ESPECIALLY INVOLVING PARAGUAYANS FOR AMERICANS.

2. GOP SOME YEARS AGO (WE HAVE NO EXACT DETAILS ON FILE) OFFERED TO EXCHANGE SOME OF ITS OLDTIME COMMUNIST PRISONERS FOR OPPONENTS OF CASTRO HELD CAPTIVE IN CUBA. CUBAN GOVERNMENT REJECTED OFFER. STROESSNER ALLUDED TO THIS IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR IN DECEMBER 1976. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT DISCUSSION, STROESSNER AUTHORIZED THE RELEASE OF MAIDANA, ALCORTA AND ROJAS (WHO WERE LAST HEARD OF IN HABANA); AND IN RECENT MONTHS OTHER LONGTIME COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO BEEN RELEASED, PRESUMABLY ON THE THEORY THEY ARE ALL NOW SO AGED AS TO HAVE BECOME HARMLESS, AND BY KEEPING THEM BEHIND BARS GOP WAS MERELY GIVING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM A FREE TARGET AT WHICH TO FIRE PROPOGANDA SALVOS.

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3. UNLESS/UNTIL PENDING QUESTION OF IAHRC VISIT AND THE DIRECTION GOP INTENDS TO TAKE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS SETTLED, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO PROMOTE PRISONER EXCHANGE.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONER EXCHANGE, POLICIES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO1620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780171-0715
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780433/aaaabbmh.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f84e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 HAVANA 981
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2898441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL PRISONER EXCHANGE
TAGS: SHUM, CU, UY, PA
To: HAVANA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f84e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014